

Message Text

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11
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /028 W

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R 010837Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6092

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 4117

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, SN
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S./SINGAPORE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 201995

1. ON AUGUST 24, EMBOFF ADVISED MFA OFFICIAL OF U.S. OFFERS PER REQUEST IN PARA 12 REFTTEL. EMBOFF ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GOS CIVAIR AUTHORITIES MIGHT WISH TO CONSTRAIN SIA'S DEMANDS AND TO GET OUTSIDE OPINION ON SIA COST/REVENUE ESTIMATES.

2. COMMENT: APPROACH WAS MADE TO MFA OFFICIAL WHO ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR US/SINGAPORE CIVAIR MATTERS. WHILE BRIEFING ON LONG HISTORY OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WAS PROBABLY USEFUL FOR HIM, HE WILL PROBABLY BE RESTRAINED IN MAKING ANY SUGGESTIONS TO MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHICH HAS FREE REIN IN DETERMINING GOS AVIATION POLICY. HIS PREDECESSOR, WHO HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED ABROAD, WAS BETTER INFORMED BUT STILL DID NOT TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DELIBERATIONS ON CIVAIR POLICY.

3. LOW PROFILE OF MFA IN THIS AREA IS PARTLY DUE TO LACK OF BUREAUCRATIC CLOUT IN ANY AREAS OUTSIDE OF FORMAL DIPLOMACY AND TO STAFF SHORTAGES WHICH PREVENT MFA OFFICIALS FROM GAINING EXPERTISE ON "TECHNICAL"

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ISSUES. HOWEVER, IT ALSO REPRESENTS TRADITIONAL GOS

PRACTICE OF ALLOWING VARIOUS MINISTRIES TO TAKE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTING THEIR INTERESTS ABROAD.

4. FOR FUTURE APPROACHES ON CIVAIR MATTERS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY FIND SINGAPORE'S AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE US, PUUCH COOMARASWAMY, A RECEPTIVE LISTENER. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD HE IS HIGHLY CAPABLE WITH A STRONG INTEREST IN AVIATION POLICY, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED FROM A FORMER GOS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA. END COMMENT.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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